

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

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R 121450Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6626

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 116";: N/A

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SUBJECT: ROMANIAN REACTION TO BALKAN CONFERENCE

REF: ATHENS 1184, ATHENS 1262, BUDAPEST 349

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO HEAD OF MFA'S BALKAN AFFAIRS SECTION, ROMANIANS "AS REALISTS" ARE STAISFIED WITH RESULTS OF ATHENS CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE DOUBTFUL OF ANY FURTHER MEETINGS THIS YEAR DUE TO NEED TO STUDY AND FLESH OUT THE VERY GENERAL PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR CONSIDER-
ATION. GOR IS NEGATIVE ON ATTENDANCE OF "OBSERVERS" AT FUTURE MEETINGS, BUT IS HOPEFUL THAT ALBANIANS MAY DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE PROJECTS OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THEM. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMBOFFS FEBRUARY 12 CALLED ON GHEORGHE MATEI, HEAD OF MFA'S BALKAN AFFAIRS SECTION, TO DISCUSS LAST WEEK'S ATHENS CONFERENCE. MATEI INDICATED GOR SATISFACTION WITH THIS "FIRST STEP", BUT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT ANOTHER MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. HE FELT A 1976 MEETING WOULD EVEN BE DIFFICULT FOR ANY OF THE VARIOUS SPECIALIZED SUB-COMMISSIONS WHICH WILL APPARENTLY BE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY SPECIFIC PROJECTS WITHIN THE SUBJECT AREAS NOTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE. LIST OF PROPOSALS WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS IS SO GENERAL THAT MUCH TIME AND STUDY WILL BE REQUIRED TO ELICIT AND EXCHANGE SPECIFIC PROJECT SUGGESTIONS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE TRILATERAL MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION MENTIONED ATHENS 1262 WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE; INSTEAD PROJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED ON BILATERAL BASIS WITH GREEKS AT UP-COMING SESSION OF ROMANIAN-GREEK JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

3. MATEI SAID NO ONE HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH IS LEFT TO THE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE ALBANIANS AND THAT THEY WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED ON TOPICS DISCUSSED IN ATHENS. HE CLAIMED THAT ALBANIANS HAD NOT COMPLETELY REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR TAKING PART IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THEMSELVES. GOR WOULD SUPPORT AND ENSURE ALBANIAN PARTICIPATION.

4. MATEI CLAMMED UP ON EXTENT OF BULGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM AT ATHENS; HE WOULD ONLY SAY THAT "SOME PARTICIPATED MORE ACTIVELY THAN OTHERS". HE WAS PLEASED THAT YUGOSLAVS NOW SEEMED TO BE TAKING AS ACTIVE A MULTILATERAL INTEREST IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD AS THEY HAVE DONE ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANE FOR SO LONG. MATEI WAS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE REGARDING THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE "OBSERVERS" AT ANY FUTURE BALKAN MEETING, AND POINTEDLY OBSERVED THAT SUCH A DECISION COULD ONLY BE TAKEN BY CONSENSUS.

5. (COMMENT: HUNGARIAN EMBASSY HERE IS DOWN-PLAYING REPORT (BUDAPEST 349) THAT HUNGARY ACTIVELY SOUGHT ATHENS INVITATION. THEIR VERSION IS THAT SUBJECT WAS BROUGHT UP WITH HUNGARIAN FONMIN PUJA BY THE GREEKS WHO SUGGESTED THAT OBSERVERS MIGHT BE WELCOME AT FUTURE MEETINGS. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, REACTION OF LOCAL HUNGARIAN COUNSELOR WAS THAT HUNGARY ALREADY BELONGED TO TOO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY ORGANIZATIONS, E.G., CEMA AND WARSAW PACT, AND WAS "NOT A BALKAN POWER".)

6. ASKED IF THE SOVIETS HAD EVER EXPRESSED AN OPINION ON THE CONFERENCE, MATEI WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THE GOR HAD NEVER RECEIVED ANY "DIRECT" EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION. WHATEVER THE SOVIETS HAVE SAID TO THE ROMANIANS, INTEREST THEY AND THE EAST EUROPEANS HAVE SHOWN IN CONFERENCE IN THE LAST

WEEKS HAS BEEN INTENSE.

7. ROMANIAN PRESS COMMENT HAS SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CONFERENCE, BUT MATEI CLAIMED THAT ATHENS DISCUSSIONS BY COMMON AGREEMENT STUCK TO ECONOMIC TOPICS. HE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT DISARMAMENT OR OTHER POLITICAL TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED, DESPITE PRESENCE OF GOR'S TOP CSCE OFFICIAL, AMBASSADOR LIPATTI, ON DELEGATION.

8. COMMENT. WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER PICTURE NEXT WEEK WHEN EMBOFFS SEE LIPATTI, BUT OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THE ROMANIANS ARE NOT DISSATISFIED WITH OUTCOME, HOWEVER LIMITED, OF THIS FIRST MEETING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH, WHENEVER AND HOWEVER THEY CAN, TO NUDGE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS TOWARDS MORE POLITICAL AREAS TO CREATE LESS EVANESCENT BALKAN MULTILATERAL IDENTITY.

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